

SAC Minutes from the meeting held on 10-9-98

Attendees:

Belinda Collins, Chair	TS
Krista Johnsen Leuteritz, Sec.	TS
Carol Croarkin	ITL
Cita Furlani	ATP
Peter Heydemann	TS
Mike Hogan	ITL
Rov Ivester for Howard Bloom	MEL
Subhas Malghan	TS
Neville Pugh for Steve Carpenter	Director's Office
George Quinn	MSEL
Ralph Richter	Program Office

The discussion began with introductions and a recap, of the recent Standards Summit by Belinda Collins. She expressed pleasant surprise with the repeated expressions of the need to work more closely with the ISO/IEC process to increase its efficacy. The perception of EU domination, means for enhancing U.S. participation, and the need to form strategic alliances were other key issues. She announced that another meeting, on Conformity Assessment, will be scheduled in 1999 most likely in conjunction with ACIL and ANSI.

Mike Hogan observed that many IT people said at the Summit that a strategy is not needed - a framework, maybe, but not a single strategy for all. He does not accept the notion that the EU is more organized than we are, but if we are both keystone cops, they have more votes than we do. He had heard that, as a result of the Summit, the Europeans are now interested in negotiating with us. This suggests that re-engineering of ISO/IEC may occur. Mike also stated that the IT sector, unlike others, does not think that EU block voting is a problem.

The next topic was coordinating standards positions within NIST. According to Rov Ivester, MEL has already placed all of their trip reports on the web. Peter Heydemann asked whether, if we do put all these reports on the web, we will be able to navigate to those of interest to us. He suggested that we will need a table of contents for the reports. While SAC members agreed that this would be important, no suggestions were given for a workable approach (which will require some oversight of the process). It was decided, however, that OIAA and OSS will work together to make trip reports available on the internal NIST website. Neville Pugh will look into having a smaller, more manageable set of documents put onto the internal web the NIST which reflect NIST positions.

In response to a question, Belinda said that we can and will circulate ANSI documents of policy interest to the SAC to keep it informed of key issues.

George Quinn raised the issue of ANSI assessments for TC participation. Why do they bill 2 years later? We should be sent a reasonable bill in a reasonable timeframe. Belinda will look into this issue, and has subsequently talked with ANSI to ask for bills related to the current fiscal year at least for NIST. This will continue to be an on-going problem, however, and SAC members are encouraged to work with their OU to inform them that there is now an ANSI policy that all TAGs must recover some of the fees associated with their operation - and that the typical fee is about \$250/member. They should work with those who participate on international committees to remind them that there are very real costs for ANSI in operating ISO committees (ISO charges ANSI for the privilege of operating each committee in addition to the \$2M in dues it pays to ISO and IEC.)

The final discussion centered on the status of NIST standards policy and the strategic plan, and what are the next steps. The policy document has not yet been cleared through upper management, and we are waiting on it before moving forward with the strategy. These items will be considered in detail at the next meeting, to be held in early December.

Since the last SAC meeting, Belinda Collins has learned that the Department of Justice and the Office of Government Ethics have reached a favorable decision regarding participation on boards of directors of standards organizations (and clarified that there are no restrictions (other than those an individual agency might impose) on participation in standards committees). We will circulate the clearance documents to SAC members to share with their OU's. In addition, Belinda Collins received a waiver through the Departments of Commerce and Justice to serve as the Chair of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC).